

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 /069 W

----- 043281

P R 192025Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3321

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

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SECDEF FOR ASD/PA

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS : OVIP (JAMES R. SCHLESINGER) XG, NATO

SUBJECT : SECDEF EUROPEAN VISITS: PRESS POLICY

REF.: PARIS 9944 AND STATE 221050

1.EMBASSY HAS FORMULATED FOLLOWING LIST OF QUESTIONS AND PROPOSED ANSWERS AS REQUESTED REFTEL. (SOME WILL PERHAPS BE OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.) IN ADDITION, WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD NOTE TWO SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES OF WHICH YOU ARE PERHAPS ALREADY AWARE:A)SUGGESTIONS THAT THE FRENCH ARE EASING OR ARE BEING COAXED BACK INTO INTEGRATED NATO STRUCTURE, AND, IN THE SAME VEIN, B)SUGGESTIONS THAT THE U.S. IS TRYING TO DOMINATE OR DIRECT EUROPE, OR IN SOME WAY HAMPER HER INDEPENDENCE. QS AND AS FOLLOW:

2.Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT? A: I CAME HERE AT MINISTER BOURGES' INVITATION FOR A THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST  
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CONCERNING SECURITY. IT SEEMS NATURAL THAT TWO OLD

ALLIES SHOULD GET TOGETHER FROM TIME TO TIME TO DISCUSS THESE THINGS. IF WE HAVE EXTENDED INVITATION TO BOURGES THIS COULD BE MENTIONED HERE).

3.Q: AFTER VISITING FRENCH MILITARY UNITS, HOW DO YOU RATE THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES? A: WHAT I HAVE SEEN HAS BEEN VERY IMPRESSIVE INDEED. I AM SURE THE FRENCH PEOPLE ARE VERY PROUD OF THEIR ARMED FORCES.

4.Q: WHAT DID YOU DISCUSS WITH THE FRENCH? A: MANY SUBJECTS RELATING TO OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE, INCLUDING SUCH THINGS AS THE NEED FOR GREATER STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENTS.

5.Q: ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES? WOULD YOU PREFER CLOSER COOPERATION? Q: THIS IS NOT OF COURSE A QUESTION THAT CAN BE ANSWERED DEFINITELY BY THE U.S. BUT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, WE WOULD ALWAYS WELCOME THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION.

6.Q: YOU MENTIONED INCREASED STANDARDIZATION. DOES THIS MEAN MORE DEALS LIKE THE F-16? A: QUITE THE CONTRARY. NATO STANDARDIZATION WOULD HELP AVOID THE PROBLEMS WE ALL RECOGNIZED IN THE MIRAGE F-16 COMPETITION. IN THIS ERA OF TIGHT DEFENSE BUDGETS, WE SHOULD BE SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF OUR DEFENSE FUNDS. AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF STANDARDIZATION WOULD LOWER THE COST OF EQUIPMENT FOR ALL THE ALLIES, AND COULD LEAD TO A MORE RATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR IN WHICH EVERYONE HAS A SHARE. WE SEE THIS AS A GENUINE TWO-WAY STREET. THE U.S. PURCHASE OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN ROLAND MISSILE SYSTEM IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT STANDARDIZATION OUGHT TO MEAN.

7. Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM? A: WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN ALL THE NUCLEAR POWERS FEEL THEY CAN SIGN THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN T TREATY.

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8.Q: ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENTS IN NATO? A: WE ARE OPPOSED TO COMMUNISTS TAKING POWER OR SHARING POWER IN NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES. THERE IS A BASIC CONTRADICTION IN COMMUNISTS PARTICIPATING IN NATO DELIBERATIONS.

9.Q: DID YOU AND THE FRENCH DISCUSS JOINT MILITARY POLICY IN THE EVENT PART OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK GOES

COMMUNIST? A: WE OF COURSE REVIEWED THE CURRENT  
SITUATION WITHIN THE NATO ALLIANCE.

10. Q:IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN THAT SOME OF THE PENTAGON  
BRASS WERE AGHAST AT THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE PERSHING  
MISSILES TO ISRAEL. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROPOSAL?

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3322  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
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A:THIS IS A QUESTION UNDER STUDY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT,  
AND I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO  
COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

11.Q: IT WAS RECENTLY PROPOSED IN A FRENCH NEWSPAPER  
THAT FRANCE JOIN THE MBFR TALKS? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF  
THAT? A: WE WOULD WELCOME THEIR PARTICIPATION.

12. Q:FRENCH PAPERS SAY YOU WOULD NOT BE ALARMED  
BY A CUTBACK IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WAR HEADS IN EUROPE.  
IS THIS SO? A:THE CONGRESS HAS ASKED FOR A REPORT ON  
THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WE HAVE PROVIDED, AND WHICH IS

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE. WE WILL KEEP THIS SUBJECT UNDER  
CONSTANT AND CAREFUL SCRUTINY IN THE FUTURE.

13. Q:THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME DISAGREEMENT ON THE DEGREE  
TO WHICH THE BASES IN TURKEY ARE VITAL TO WESTERN  
DEFENSE. A:THERE SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING. THE  
NATO BASES AND INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY ARE  
VITAL TO OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE, AS PRESIDENT FORD HAS SAID  
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ON MANY OCCASIONS.

14. Q:HOW DO YOU RATE THE CHANCES OF AN ALL-OUT WAR IN  
THE NEXT TEN YEARS? A:WHILE THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE  
CONCERN AN UPSET IN THE BALANCE OF POWER  
BETWEEN NATO AND THE SOVIET BLOC COULD CREATE INCREASED  
DANGERS.  
RUSH

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